

E73-10972

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September 1, 1973

Progress Report: Utilization of Skylab (EREP) System for Appraising
Changes in Continental Migratory Bird Habitat.

Period: Through August 1973

EREP Investigation No: 486

NASA Contract No: T-4114B

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OVERALL STATUS

SKYLAB SL-2 and SL-3 overpasses occurred on 12 June and 5 August 1973 respectively. According to EREP postpass messages, data were gathered for task site 866323 on both of these dates. Supporting aircraft flights (ERIM C-47 aircraft) occurred on 12 May and 12 August 1973. (Note: seasonal constraints had been placed on the timing of aircraft data collection and as a result these flights did not necessarily occur in time synchronization with the passage of SKYLAB). Crews gathered extensive ground documentation during five to ten day periods which included the time of each aircraft flight. Photographic documentation from light aircraft was obtained within two days of the SL-2 passage. Data collection crews were composed of both NPWRC and ERIM personnel.

E73-10972) UTILIZATION OF SKYLAB (EREP)
SYSTEM FOR APPRAISING CHANGES IN
CONTINENTAL MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

To date, two sets of data have been obtained on Track 61 (descending). Optimum site coverage would have been obtained on Track 59 (ascending). Track 61, S-192 for SL-2 included only the extreme edge of the study site. In addition it is apparent from the S-192 screening film that approximately 10 seconds of data were obtained while the MRD specified 15 seconds. The scanner should have been turned on earlier. Coverage of a physiographic region unique for its abundance of wetlands was missed almost completely. Coverage was obtained in another physiographic region of lesser importance for which little ground truth and virtually no aircraft support data has been obtained. No SL-3, S-192 screening imagery has been obtained to date and it is therefore premature to judge the adequacy of coverage from this mission. However, because of the described incomplete site coverage, it is urged that additional coverage be provided at the earliest possible date on Track 59 (ascending) or Track 47 (descending). On either track the data-take should begin no later than $100^{\circ}00'$ W. longitude and end no sooner than $98^{\circ}22'$ W. longitude as specified in the MRD. We will also appreciate receiving screening information and data at its earliest availability.

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING NEXT PERIOD

During the next reporting period we anticipate receiving additional satellite and supporting aircraft screening imagery. We will review this data and decide which data by season and site will be processed and analyzed in detail.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

None to report

SUMMARY OUTLOOK

The remaining effort to be performed is substantially all the effort of the contract.

TRAVEL SUMMARY AND PLANS

E.A. Work (of ERIM and a program co-investigator) was at the test site in North Dakota for ten days in May, nine days in July and five days in August. During these periods he was serving in his capacity both as an investigator as well as mission director on the associated aircraft program. No travel is anticipated for the forth coming period.